



MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Violet Varona-Lukens, Executive Officer
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
Los Angeles, California 90012

At its meeting held March 29, 2005, the Board took the following action:

85-C

Supervisor Burke made the following statement:

“State law, Assembly Bill 939, requires cities and counties to reduce the amount of solid waste disposed at landfills by 50% and requires counties to assure adequate disposal capacity. For Los Angeles County, this means finding a home for 12 million tons of solid waste disposed each year.

“In 1999, the Board approved a set of recommendations to, among other things, promote and implement an array of alternatives to land filling, including conversion technologies. The term conversion technology refers to state-of-the-art technologies capable of converting residual solid waste into useful products, including renewable and environmentally benign fuels, chemicals, and other sources of clean energy. Since then, the County has supported local research and development of conversion technologies, already common in Europe and Japan, by sponsoring and supporting legislative proposals and working with the California Integrated Waste Management Board and other stakeholders on this issue. As a part of this effort, the County Department of Public Works working with the Regional Planning Commission secured funds and assembled a diverse panel of experts in an effort to develop a demonstration facility in Southern California, in order to assess their logistical and economic feasibility and collect additional data regarding these technologies.

“On March 15, 2005, the Waste Board approved a comprehensive report which found that conversion technologies ‘can result in substantial environmental benefits for California,’ including reduction in landfill disposal, production of renewable energy, reduced dependence on fossil fuels, and reduction of green house gases, all while complementing California’s recycling infrastructure and complying with strict environmental safeguards.

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“Recently, State Assemblymember Barbara S. Matthews introduced a legislative proposal that would better define conversion technologies and promote their development. This proposal, Assembly Bill 1090, would incorporate conversion technologies within the State’s waste management hierarchy in proper context to their environmental benefits and impacts, and provide diversion credit to jurisdictions that utilize such facilities. If Assembly Bill 1090 becomes law, it would promote technologies that have the capacity to improve the quality of life of our residents.

Therefore, on motion of Supervisor Burke, seconded by Supervisor Yaroslavsky, unanimously carried, the Board took the following actions:

1. Went on record on support Assembly Bill 1090 (Matthews), legislation which would define conversion technologies and promote its development by incorporating conversion technologies within the State’s waste management hierarchy in proper context to its environmental benefits and impacts, and provide diversion credit to jurisdictions that utilize such facilities; and
2. Instructed the Executive Officer of the Board to send a five-signature letter to Governor Schwarzenegger and the State Legislature expressing the Board’s support of Assembly Bill 1090.

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Copies distributed:

Each Supervisor
Chief Administrative Officer
County Counsel
Acting Director of Public Works
Chairperson, Regional Planning Commission

Letters sent to:

Assemblymember Barbara S. Matthews
Governor Schwarzenegger
Each Member, State Legislature